

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2-4, 6, 14 and 19-20, and amend claims 5, 11 and 26. Claim 5 as amended corresponds to the originally filed claim 6. Accordingly, claims 5, 8-9, 11-13, 15-18 and 21-26 remain pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

A new Office Action is respectfully requested, and reexamination and reconsideration of the present application, are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

REQUEST FOR NEW OFFICE ACTION

Among other things, the Office Action failed to substantively examine claims 21-24, alleging that claims 21 and 23 are "substantial duplicate[s]" of claims 15 and 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21 and 23 are not "substantial duplicates" of claims 15 and 16 (or any other pending claims) and accordingly, all of the claims 21-24 should have been substantively examined. Because none of these claims has been examined, Applicants respectfully submit that they are entitled to a new, complete, Office Action which substantively examines every pending claim on its own merits.

For example, claim 21 recites the resonant converter of claim 8 with, among other things, at least two of the secondary windings being **electrically connected to one another** (see, e.g., FIGs. 8, 9 etc. for exemplary embodiments). Meanwhile, in direct contrast, claim 15 recites the resonant converter of claim 8 with, among other things, at least two of the secondary windings being **electrically separated from one another** (see, e.g., FIG. 1 for an exemplary embodiment). Therefore, claim 21

is not any "substantial duplicate" of claim 15 and properly should have been examined in the first Office Action. Claim 22 depending from claim 21 therefore also properly should have been examined. Similarly, claim 23 recites the resonant converter of claim 9 with, among other things, at least two of the secondary windings being **electrically connected to one another**, while claim 16 recites the resonant converter of claim 9 with, among other things, at least two of the secondary windings being **electrically separated from one another**. Therefore, claim 23 is not any "substantial duplicate" of claim 16 and properly should have been examined in the first Office Action. Claim 24 depending from claim 23 therefore also properly should have been examined.

Accordingly, claims 21-24 having not been properly examined on their merits, Applicants respectfully request a new Office Action that examines all of the pending claims in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 8-9, 13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Wittenbreder, Jr. U.S. Patent 5,402,329 ("Wittenbreder").

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims 5, 8-9, 13 and 15-16 - as well as the remaining unexamined pending claims 11, 17-18 and 21-28 – are all patentable over Wittenbreder for at least the following reasons.

Claim 5

Among other things, the resonant converter of claim 5 includes at least one external inductive element in series with the capacitive element and the primary winding of the transformer.

Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not disclose any such feature.

The Office Action states that Wittenbreder discloses an additional inductive element at col. 12, lines 30-45. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants see no mention of any such element in the cited text. Indeed, the cited text does not even pertain to the circuit of FIG. 7, but instead pertains to the very different circuit of FIG.

5 which does not include any transformer with a primary winding and at least two secondary windings of different winding directions.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 5 is deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claims 11-13, 17-18, and 25-26

Claims 11-13, 17-18, and 25-26 depend from claim 5 and are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder for at least the reasons set for the above with respect to claim 5, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 11

Among other things, the resonant converter of claim 11 includes means for deriving from each of the multiple outputs a measuring signal for regulating an output voltage of the inverter coupled to the primary windings of the transformer.

Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not disclose any such feature.

The Office Action makes no mention of this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not include any such feature.

Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claim 11 is deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claims 17-18 and 25-26

Among other things, in the resonant converters of claims 17-18 and 25-26 at least two of the secondary windings are electrically connected to one another. Furthermore, in the resonant converters of claims 18 and 26, the secondary windings are connected to a ground potential.

The Office Action makes no mention of these features. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not include any such features.

Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claims 17-18 and 25-26 are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claim 8

Among other things, in the resonant converter of claim 8, the secondary windings of the transformer are connected to the converter outputs by way of one

diode and one output filter each.

The Office Action makes no mention of these features. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not disclose any such features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 8 is deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claims 15 and 21-22

Claims 15 and 21-22 depend from claim 8 and are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder for at least the reasons set for the above with respect to claim 8, and for the following additional reasons.

Claims 21-22

Among other things, in the resonant converters of claims 21-22 at least two of the secondary windings are electrically connected to one another. Furthermore, in the resonant converter of claim 22, the secondary windings are connected to a ground potential.

The Office Action makes no mention of these features. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not include any such features.

Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claims 21-22 are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claim 9

Among other things, in the resonant converter of claim 9, different ratios of output voltage to number of turns are provided in respect of associated secondary windings having different winding directions.

The Office Action makes no mention of these features. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not disclose any such features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 9 is deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

Claims 16 and 23-24

Claims 16 and 23-24 depend from claim 9 and are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder for at least the reasons set for the above with respect to claim 9, and for the following additional reasons.

Claims 23-24

Among other things, in the resonant converters of claims 23-24 at least two of the secondary windings are electrically connected to one another. Furthermore, in the resonant converter of claim 24, the secondary windings are connected to a ground potential.

The Office Action makes no mention of these features. Applicants respectfully submit that Wittenbreder does not include any such features.

Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claims 23-24 are deemed patentable over Wittenbreder.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The Office Action also rejects all of the pending claims on the basis of the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,721,191 which issued from the very same parent application from which this application claims priority.

Applicants will consider filing an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer after the application is otherwise in condition for allowance such that no further claim amendments are to be entered with respect to the application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 5, 8-9, 11-13, 15-18 and 21-26, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §

1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

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